

## STATEFUL BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS PROTOCOL EXCHANGE

### Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method of communicating between two business entities, each of the business entities utilizing a different communication protocol, wherein a business conversation is established between the entities, comprises the steps of: providing a business-to-business (B2B) protocol exchange for facilitating communications between the business entities, the B2B protocol exchange being operatively connected to the business entities. The method further includes the step of receiving, at the B2B protocol exchange, a message  
10 from one of the business entities in a first communication protocol, translating the received message in the first communication protocol into a translated message in a second protocol used by another of the business entities and sending the translated message to the other business entity. In this manner, the present invention provides a framework for facilitating communication between two business entities implemented  
15 using different communication protocols.